In doing this for his country;—athwart the lane,
He, with two striplings, (lads more like to run
The country base[4], than to commit such slaughter;
With faces fit for masks, or rather fairer
Than those for preservation cas'd, or shame[5],)
Made good the passage; cry'd to those that fled,
Our Britain's harts die flying, not our men :
To darkness Jteet$_y$ *souls that fly backwards ! Stand;*
Or we are Romans, and will give you that
Like beasts, which you shun beastly; and may save,
But to look back in frown: stand, stand.—These three.
Three thousand confident, in act as many, (For three performers are the file, when all The rest do nothing,) with this word, *stand, stand,* Accommodated by the place, more charming, With their own nobleness, (which could have turned A distaff to a lance,) gilded pale looks,
Part, shame, part, spirit renew'd ; that some, turn'd coward
But by example (O, a sin in war,
Damn'd in the first beginners!) 'gan to look The way that they did, and to grin like lions Upon the pikes o' the hunters. Then began A stop i' the chaser, a retire; anon, A rout, confusion thick : Forthwith, they fly

4 The country BASE,] i. e. a rustick game called *prison-bars^* vulgarly *prison-base.* So, in the tragedy of Hoffman, 1632:

" ; I'll run a little course
<e At *base,* or barley-brake- ."

Again, in The Antipodes, 1638 :

"------my men can run at *base."*

Again, in the 30th Song of Dray ton's Polyolbion:

* * At hood-wink, barley-brake, at tick,, or *prison-base"* Again, in Spenser's Fairy Queen, book v, ch. viii:

fe So ran they all as they had been at *bace"*

STEEVENS. See vol. iv. p. 23. MALONE.

5 — for preservation cas'd, or SHAME,)] *Shame,* for *modesty.*

WAKBURTOKT.